



MEMO

Date: November 3, 2014

To: Commissioners Court

From: Tracy R. Homfeld, P.E., CFM; Assistant Director of Engineering

Subject: Status Update and any action regarding the City of Celina's 2007 Bond Project #07-014, CR 5 (Frontier Parkway) from DNT to SH 289

This item is a continuation of the item discussed at the Commissioner Court's October 6 meeting concerning the status of the deliberations about a grade separation on Frontier Parkway and the BNSF Railroad. The original item was submitted to you for discussion and possible action at the request of Commissioner, Precinct 1. The Commissioners Court directed the staff to provide a status report of the project by October 31, 2014. It has been learned that there has been some delay in progress of the project, so the staff, in consultation with Commissioner Reid, moved the report date to November 3, 2014.

HISTORY OF PROJECT

- The City of Celina was allocated \$5,001,500 (50% of \$10,003,000 estimated total project cost) from the 2007 Bond Program for Frontier Parkway from DNT to SH 289 to expand the facility from a 2 lane rural section to a 6 lane divided roadway.
- In May of 2011, the Town of Prosper passed a bond election that allocated \$3.65M to a future grade separation (GS) at the BNSF Railroad to cover any funding gap the bridge created.
- In 2009, Commissioners Court approved an Interlocal Agreement with Celina that allowed for reallocation of unused bond funds in the amount of \$477,404 to be reallocated to the Frontier Parkway Project. This brought the available funding amount up to \$5,478,904.
- City of Celina reduced their bond allocation by \$1,063,814 in lieu of cash funding Mutual Boundary Projects, by \$21,222 in lieu of cash funding CR 55 maintenance work, and by \$420,000 to fund the TxDOT Right of Way participation along SH 289. Total reduction of \$1,505,036, leaving an available funding amount of \$3,973,868 to be used for Frontier parkway of which \$477,404 has already been sent to the city of Celina.
- In 2012, Celina and Prosper both submitted proposals to the County for Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) Funding. County Engineering staff met with the town and the city to discuss their respective proposals. Staff indicated that it would be best to submit the proposal, excluding the bridge, so that the matrix criteria for "funding gap" did not result in a lower score therefore eliminating the project from receiving funding. County Engineering staff did not give preference to a project with or without a bridge but simply advised the city/town on the best way to submit for funding. The proposal submitted by Celina was accepted and they received RTR funding in the amount of \$4,354,177. They have signed a contract with TxDOT and have received the RTR funding.

- Including RTR funding, the available funding for Frontier parkway is \$8,328,045. If you include the town of Prosper's town bond funds (to be used only for a GS only) the available funding is \$11,978,045 (This includes the \$477,404 that has been sent to Celina for Engineering.)
- The County staff requested that NCTCOG transportation staff conduct A Grade Separation (GS) warrant analysis since they had traffic projections and the expertise. The results indicated that a GS was not warranted at this time. However, the COG staff did communicate to city/town staff and councils that there are many locations (to include El Dorado at BNSF in Frisco, TX) where un-warranted bridges have been constructed for reasons to include safety and future traffic and therefore the warrant study should not be the only basis for decision making. The staff's recommendation is that, due to the dynamic nature of the growth in this area, the GS should be planned for no matter what is constructed at the present.
- At a joint council meeting on August 19, 2014, the city and town councils agreed that a GS may not be needed presently but that any engineering and construction should include planning for one. Staff was directed to come up with a concept plan so that discussions could be had with affected property owners on both sides on the roadway.

ACTIVITY SINCE OCTOBER 6, 2014

- On October 6, Commissioners Court directed the staff to have a cost estimate prepared that includes the acquisition of right-of-way for a six-lane thoroughfare and a grade separation as well as a four-lane roadway at-grade and to report the status of the project to the Commissioners Court by October 31, 2014.
- A GS concept plan was presented to the engineering staffs of Prosper, Celina and Collin County on October 7, 2014. The staffs agreed with the concept plan and asked the staffs of the Town of Prosper and the City of Celina to arrange meetings with the affected property owners to share the concept plan with them and to receive and gauge their reaction.
- At the October 7 meeting, the Collin County staff asked that a cost estimate be prepared for acquiring the right-of-way required for a six-lane roadway with a GS as well as construction of a four-lane divided roadway at-grade. It was also determined that an estimate would be prepared for acquiring all the right-of-way with the construction of a four-lane divided roadway with half of a six-lane bridge.

STATUS

As of October 23, one property owner meeting has been scheduled and the estimates of cost have not been received by the County staff.